

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01552 141151Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 CU-02 /073 W  
-----141848Z 069059 /50

R 141100Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8000  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1552

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINS, SHUM, IN, NP  
SUBJ: INDO-NEPALESE POLEMICS OVER B.P. KOIRALA  
ESCALATE

REF: KATHMANDU 1538

1. THE ISSUE OF B.P. KOIRALA'S DETENTION IN NEPAL HAS  
QUICKLY BECOME AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN INDO-NEPALI RELATIONS WITH BOTH  
SIDES ISSUING STRONG STATEMENTS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE APRIL 8 STATEMENT BY 34 INDIAN MPS  
("ACTIVATED BY AN URGE TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS WHENEVER THEY  
ARE IN JEOPARDY") CALLING UPON THE KING TO RELEASE B.P. KOIRALA,  
9 MEMBERS OF NEPAL'S NATIONAL PANCHAYAT APRIL 11 ISSUED A  
STATEMENT CONDEMNING "INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF  
AND INDEPENDENT STATE." THE NEPALI LEGISLATORS NOTED THAT  
STATEMENTS BY THEIR INDIAN COLLEAGUES "COULD ONLY JEOPARDIZE  
THE GROWING FREINDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA". THEY  
NOTED THAT NO CONUTRY" CAN TOLERATE VIOLENCE AND  
SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES."

3. THE EXCHANGE GAINED MOMENTUM ON APRIL 11 WITH THE  
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RELEASE OF A PRESS STATEMENT BY J.P. NARAYAN URGING HMG  
TO RELEASE THE JAILED LEADER OF THE NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY  
(NEW DELHI 5201). ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENTS HAS BEEN  
BANNED IN NEPAL (REFTel) STUDENTS AT TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY  
HAVE CIRCULATED IT WIDELY IN KATHMANDU. G.P. KORLA, THE  
YOUNGER AND MORE RADICAL BROTHER OF B.P., IN RELEASING  
NARAYAN'S CALLREPORTEDLY SAID HE HAD LEARNED THAT HIS

BROTHER HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY A SECRET TRIBUNAL  
IN KATHMANDU.

4. ON APRIL 12 A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOME MINISTRY IN  
KATHMANDU DESCRIBED G.P.'S INFORMATION AS "BASELESS, MALICIOUS  
AND MISLEADING." HE NOTED THAT KOERALA REMAINED UNDER PRE-  
TRIAL DETENTION AND WAS IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION. THE  
SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS "DISGUSTING" THAT THE (INDIAN) PRESS  
HAD DECIDED TO PUBLISH SUCH REPORTS WITHOUT BOTHERING TO OBTAIN  
CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL FROM OFFICIALS IN NEPAL. HE CONCLUDED  
BY SAYING THAT NO MORE THAN 30 PERSONS WERE BEING HELD FOR  
POLITICAL CRIMES , NOT "SEVERAL HUNDREDS" AS REPORTED IN THE  
INDIAN PRESS.

5. IN HIS TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE DELIVERED APRIL 13  
THE KING POINTEDLY SAID THAT "IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL WE  
PERMIT ANYTHING TO THREATEN OUR NATIONAL UNITY FROM ANY  
QUARTER." HE REMARKED THAT "IF IT IS FELT THAT A  
CHANGE ABOUT ANYTHING OR THE WAY WE CARRY OUT THINGS IN  
THIS COUNTRY IS REQUIRED, WE HAVE NEVER CLOSED THE DOOR  
TO CHANGE OR REFORM IN THE PAST NOR WILL WE DO SO IN THE  
FUTURE".

6. COMMENT: HMG OFFICIALS AND JOURNALIST WITH WHOM WE HAVE  
TALKED WERE CLEARLY SURPRISED BY THE SPEED WITH WHICH PRO-  
KOIRALA FORCES IN INDIA HAVE MOUNTED THEIR ATTACK. THERE  
WAS CONSIDERABLE HOPE HERE THAT THE SOCIALISTS IN THE NEW  
INDIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON DOMESTIC (POLITIC)  
PROBLEMS BEFORE ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF KOIRALA'S ARREST.  
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THE FACT THAT JAYA PRAKASH NARYAN HAS JOINED THE BATTLE WAS  
VIEWED WITH PARTICULAR ALARM, GIVEN HIS TREMENDOUS PRESTIGE  
NOT ONLY IN INDIA,BUT ALSO IN NEPAL. DESPITE THE BANNING OF  
INDIAN NEWSPAPERS OF APRIL 12, THE RUMOR QUICKLY WENT THROUGH  
KATHMANDU THAT KOIRALA HAD IN FACT BEEN EXECUTED. WE UNDER-  
STAND THAT THERE WAS A SIZEABLE DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF  
KOIRALA AT A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL IN BHAKTIPUR APRIL 13 AND THAT  
POLICE WERE CALLED OUT TO ARREST SEVERAL PERSONS. NEPAL'S  
AMBASSADOR IN DELHI (MALLA) WAS RECALLED EARLY THIS WEEK  
TO PROVIDE THE PALACE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY A FIRST HAND  
ASSESSMENT OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT. MALLA  
IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT FOR THE MOMENT HE THOUGHT THE  
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED BUT WOULD  
RATHER LET "PUBLIC OPINION" IN INDIA CARRY THE MESSAGE  
THROUGH THE MEDIA. THE KING IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID  
THAT HE WILL NOT CAVE IN TO INDIAN PRESSURE ON THIS  
ISSUE WHICH HE VIEWS AS A BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN DOM-  
ESTIC NEPAESE POLITICS. THE KING, WHO WAS SCHEDULED  
TO LEAVE KATHMANDU APRIL 14 FOR A HUNTING TRIP ALONG THE

INDIAN BORDER, HAS DELAYED THE VISIT 24 HOURS IN ORDER TO  
MEET WITH POLITICAL ADVISORS TOADY. ALTHOUGH PUBLIC  
SENTIMENT DOES NOT COUNT FOR MUCH IN KATHMANDU, THE  
GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT THERE IS GROWING SUPPORT FOR  
KOIRALA AMONG LIBERALS WHO SEE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
WEAKEN THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM AND PUSH FOR REFORM.  
MAYTAG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PINS, SHUM, IN, NP, (KOIRALA, B P)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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